



community overview



community context

Las Vegas, located in the southern tip of Nevada, is the most populous city in the state. With a 2005 population of 575,973, it is also one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. These 131 square miles of Mojave Desert are a major vacation, shopping and gambling destination, with an average of 294 days of sun per year.

The city itself is divided into six wards, which are the focus of this recreation survey. However, “Las Vegas” frequently refers to the unincorporated areas of Clark County—on and near the famous Strip—which surround the city proper.



city demographics

Las Vegas residents are relatively young. The median age, according to 2005 information gathered by the Planning and Development Department, is 34.5, and the median household income is \$44,069. There are 221,949 housing units in the city, with 132,823 single-family dwellings. Population by racial categories are: The ethnic breakdown of Las Vegas residents is as follows: 58.1 percent of the population are white; 23.6 percent are Hispanic or Latino; 10.1 percent are African-American; 4.7 percent are Asian; 0.9 percent are Native American or Pacific Islander; and 2.6 percent identify themselves as multiracial or from an unspecified racial category.

The health status of Las Vegas residents varies by age group. Only 16 percent of youth are classified as overweight, while 65 percent of adults are overweight or obese. As of 2003, 23 percent of Nevada adults report no daily physical activity. By contrast, two-thirds of older adults who visit Las Vegas area parks report a lifestyle with moderate to high levels of physical activity.

Winter Ballet Folklórico

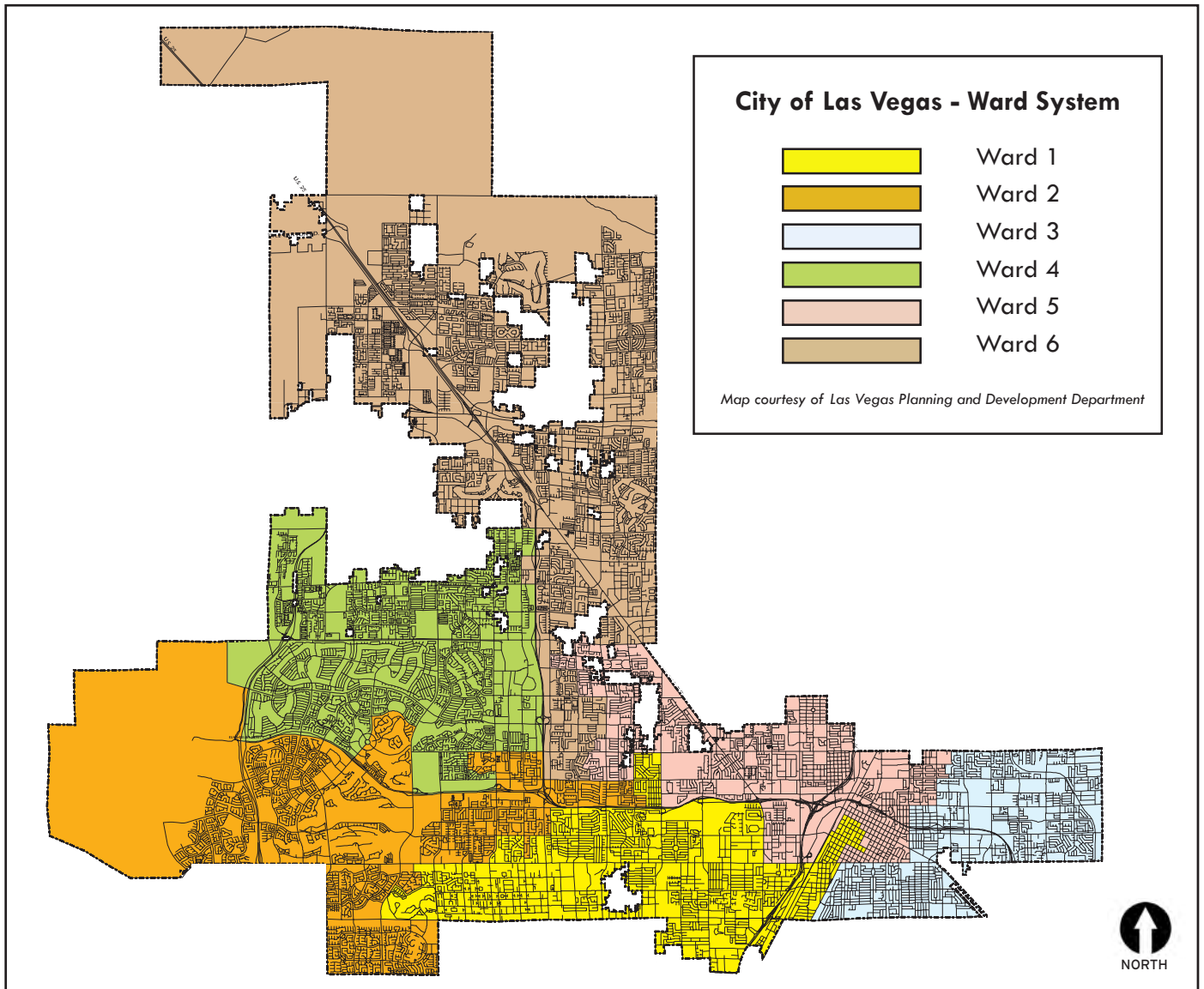
Las Vegas Synchronettes

First Friday Crowd



ward structure

As of July 2006, the city is divided into 6 wards, illustrated in the map of Las Vegas below. All results broken down by ward reflect these district boundaries.



ward demographics

- Ward 6 has the highest population in the city, accounting for 22.4% of Las Vegas' population. Remaining population rankings are as follows: Ward 2 (17.4%), Ward 4 (16.9%), Ward 5 (15.0%), Ward 3 (14.4%), and Ward 1 (14.0%).

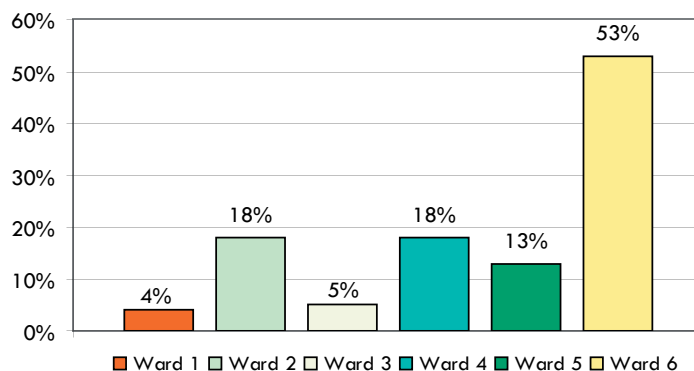
- Ward 6 is also the fastest-growing ward in the City, with a 53% population growth in the past five years. Subsequent growth rankings are as follows: Ward 2 (18%) and Ward 4 (18%), Ward 5 (13%), Ward 3 (5%), and Ward 1 (4%).

- Youth populations are consistent throughout all wards, with Ward 3 showing a slightly higher child population than other wards – 12.2% of the ward is age 10-17, as compared to a city-wide average of 10.5%. Seniors age 65 and over are most concentrated in Wards 1 and 4, which have senior population rates of 13.5% and 17.6% respectively as compared to a city-wide average of 11.6%.

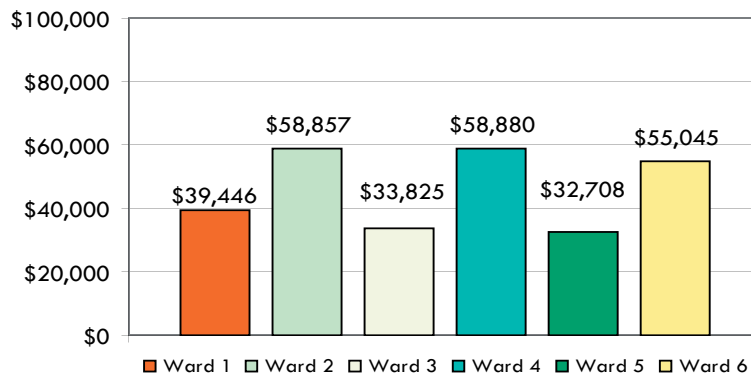
- Wards 1, 3 and 5 are the most racially diverse in the City. Ward 1 is 59.1% white with an Hispanic/Latino population of 25.7%. Ward 3 is 32.5% white with an Hispanic/Latino population of 49.5%. Ward 5 is 37.2% white with an African American population of 22.7% and an Hispanic/Latino population of 33.4%. Distribution patterns for all remaining racial groups are consistent throughout all wards.

- Wards 2, 4 and 6 are the wealthiest wards in the city, with median incomes of \$58,857 and \$58,880 and \$55,045 respectively. Median income levels decrease as follows: Ward 1 (\$39,446), Ward 3 (\$33,825) and Ward 5 (\$32,708).

Population Growth by Ward, 2000-2005



Median Income by Ward, 2005



department of leisure services

The Department of Leisure Services is responsible for programming parks, as well as 41 facilities located throughout the city. Part of their mission is to promote and provide quality cultural and recreational experiences for the Las Vegas community. In fiscal year 2004–2005, the department offered 19,834 programs, with more than 4 million occurrences of participation counted. For fiscal year 2005–2006, their budget is \$33,715,900, with approximately half of those monies going toward recreational and cultural programs.

From youth services to senior services, from literacy programs to the performing arts, the Department of Leisure Services strives to provide high-quality, community-driven recreational and cultural programs. As it designs these programs to meet the specific needs of Las Vegas citizens, the department values creativity, safety, teamwork, and service, aiming to generate an unmatched level of enthusiasm and excitement in the community.

The City maintains 910 acres of parks, and 4 city-owned golf courses. Each of the city's six wards is served by at least three parks and two community centers or schools. There are also seven swimming pools/aquatic centers, six senior centers, four cultural centers, three indoor theatres, two outdoor theatres, and two sports complexes, all under the supervision of the Department of Leisure Services.

Summerlin council also maintains additional parks and facilities in Ward 2 that are not reflected in the table to the right.

Table 2.1 Las Vegas Leisure Services Department General Statistics	
Statistic	Number
Customers Served	53,679
2005-2006 Budget	\$33,715,900

Table 2.2 Las Vegas Leisure Services Department Facilities Summary	
Facility	Acreage/Number
Parks	910 acres
Golf Courses	4
Pools/Aquatic Centers	7
Senior Centers	6
Cultural Centers	4
Indoor Theaters	3
Outdoor Theaters	2
Sports Complexes	2
Community Schools	10
Recreation Centers	7

Table 2.3 Las Vegas Leisure Services Department Facilities Summary by Ward	
Ward	Facilities
Ward 1	2 community schools, 1 pool, 5 centers, 12 parks
Ward 2*	1 community school, 1 pool, 4 parks
Ward 3	1 community school, 2 pools, 4 centers, 9 parks
Ward 4	2 community schools, 1 pool, 1 center, 14 parks
Ward 5	2 community schools, 2 pools, 11 centers, 13 parks
Ward 6	2 community schools, 2 centers, 12 parks

*Summerlin council maintains additional parks and facilities

As part of its effort to ensure the best possible recreational services for Las Vegas residents, the department works closely with federal, state, and local governments. Many private citizens and organizations also support the department's work, including Senior Dimensions, the YMCA, AARP, City of Las Vegas Department of Neighborhood Services, Vision Sports, the Hart Foundation, West Care Nevada, the Paiute Indian Reservation, Cirque du Soleil, Nevada Partners, Eddy Hartwell, Lakeside, BlazeSports Clubs, National Tennis Association, United States Tennis Association, and Las Vegas Sportspark. To maintain one of the department's most important core services—education—it has partnered with large educational institutions, including the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the National Youth Alliance's Youth Initiative and the Clark County School District.